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SUBJECT: Resumption of German training of Iraqi forces in the UAE

REF: A) Berlin 2634, B) Berlin 1428

¶1. (SBU) Summary: After a two-year disruption, Germany will resume training of the Iraqi armed forces in cooperation with the United Arab Emirates in early 2008. From January through April, the Bundeswehr will train an Iraqi logistics and support battalion of 800 soldiers in the UAE and provide equipment worth 7.5 million Euro. This is a continuation of the effort started in 2004/2005, which was disrupted by an Iraqi reluctance to pay a share of the transportation costs. End Summary

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Schedule and Equipment provided  
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¶2. (U) While visiting the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on October 30, German Defense Minister Jung signed a trilateral agreement with the UAE and Iraq to train an Iraqi logistics and support battalion of 800 military personnel in the UAE, providing 70 training instructors and 15 interpreters.

¶3. (SBU) Training will begin in January 2008 with a two-month course for the battalion's staff officers, followed by seven weeks of training at company and battalion levels. The Bundeswehr will provide 250 trucks and 100 ambulances, worth 7.5 million Euro total. The UAE will provide the training facilities.

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Controversial Transport Expenditure Resolved  
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¶4. (SBU) German efforts to train the Iraqi military in 2006 and 2007 were derailed by Baghdad's reluctance to cover 600,000 Euros in transportation costs, as previously agreed to for the 2005 training. The German MOD confirms that the controversial transport expenditure issue has now been resolved. Iraq has agreed to cover 30 percent of the transportation costs (mainly to re-locate equipment from the UAE to Iraq), while Germany will cover the remaining 70 percent.

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